



California Department of Veterans Affairs

News For Veterans

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NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT COMMEMORATING D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

Gov. Schwarzenegger today made the following statement in memory of the U.S. invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944:

"Sixty-two years ago today, a great coalition of allied troops launched the invasion of Normandy, definitively moving to free Europe and the world from brutal Nazi occupation and rule.

"California is home to hundreds of thousands of veterans - many of whom served in our Armed Forces during World War II. They are all heroes.

"We should take a moment to recognize and honor the great sacrifices made by what has been called our greatest generation - our World War II veterans. We must also recognize the commitment and sacrifices being made by our fellow Californians and Americans currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the globe.

"We honor our veterans and the brave men and women in uniform today by exercising freedom and democracy at home. I encourage all eligible Californians to go to the polls today and while in the privacy of the voting booth, give silent thanks for the men and women who have made our free and democratic society possible."

[Governor's Office News Release](#)

FROM THE D-DAY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

D-DAY HISTORY

D-Day: It is hard to conceive the epic scope of this decisive battle that foreshadowed the end of Hitler's dream of Nazi domination. Overlord was the largest air, land, and sea operation undertaken before or since June 6, 1944. The landing included over 5,000 ships, 11,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 service men.

After years of meticulous planning and seemingly endless training, for the Allied Forces, it all came down to this: The boat ramp goes down, then jump, swim, run, and crawl to the cliffs. Many of the first young men (most not yet 20 years old) entered the surf carrying eighty pounds of equipment. They faced over 200 yards of beach before reaching the first natural feature offering any protection. Blanketed by small-arms fire and bracketed by artillery, they found themselves in hell.

When it was over, the Allied Forces had suffered nearly 10,000 casualties; more than 4,000 were dead. Yet somehow, due to planning and preparation, and due to the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of the Allied Forces, Fortress Europe had been breached.

http://www.dday.org/html/d-day_history.php#

Additional D-Day Websites

The National WWII Museum: <http://www.ddaymuseum.org/home.html>

History in Film: Saving Private Ryan: <http://www.historyinfilm.com/ryan/real.htm>

D-Day Web: The Real Normandy: <http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/studio/1327/>

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